Tidings

How to Reach Us

At Our Office
7141 Sherbrooke St. West
Room SC 03-3 (Loyola)

Office Hours
Every Thursday 6:00pm – 9:00pm
(Or by appointment)

By Phone
(514) 848-7441 Leave a message

By E-Mail
cups@fastmail.ca

By Mail
1455 de Maisonneuve West
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Announcement

CUPS Beltaine Ritual

Time: Friday, May 11th at 7:30pm
Place: Campus Ministry (Room Z-105)
2090 Mackay (downtown campus)

The Wheel of the year now turns to Beltaine, one of the four Grand or Major Sabbats celebrated each year by pagans throughout the world.
Come join Taliesin as he helps us celebrate (with help from a priestess)! All are more than welcome.
Please bring feast and feast-gear (utensils, cup, and plate).

About Tidings

Tidings is a free newsletter published by the Concordia University Pagan Society (CUPS) on the last week of each month.

Announcements of interest to the Pagan community will be printed free of charge.

Submissions for upcoming issues may be made by e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca, in TEXT format, or to our postal address. Bear in mind that our publication is black & white.

The deadline for any submissions is 7 days before our monthly General Meeting.

Meet CUPS

Come join CUPS at its monthly General Meetings. We will hold discussions on a variety of topics of interest to Pagan folk. Come out and contribute or just listen. Suggest a topic for an upcoming meeting!

Next meeting:

Time:
Friday, May 25th at 7:00pm

Place:
Campus Ministry (Room Z-105)
2090 Mackay (downtown campus)
Please call (514) 848-7441 for info.

We will be going over the events planned for the month of May, as well as taking suggestions for upcoming events or volunteers to lead upcoming Sabbats or Esbats.

Bulletins

* Join us at cupagans@yahoogroups.com (an electronic mailing list setup for CUPS). It's a great place to receive the latest news about CUPS and to get into some very lively discussions.

To subscribe, send a message to:
cupagans-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to:
cupagans-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
To post a message, send the email to:
cupagans@yahoogroups.com

* The Montreal Pagan Resource Centre provides a reading-only library, for pagans and non-pagans alike, to consult. A pot of coffee and tea is always available, as is contact information about professionals and artisans within the city. The Centre is a meeting place for all traditions within the pagan community of Montreal, a place for teaching, sharing and learning.
Further information, events schedules & volunteer forms available online at http://www.mprc.paganuniverse.com.
Location: 1928 St. Catherine Street West
E-mail: mprc@total.net

* Each month, the Montreal Grove hosts public full moon rituals, as well as a public Sabbat ritual.
Details can be found on their web site at http://www.cam.org/~lokigui/

* CUPS will be holding its annual elections at the end of the summer. Nominations are now open for the posts of President, Vice-President, Scribe (Secretary) & Purse Warden (Treasurer). If you would like to run for any of these offices, please leave a message at the CUPS office or send an e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca.

Executive officers must be Concordia undergraduate students (part-time or full-time) of the 2001-2002 school year.

Nominees should prepare a few words about themselves and why they are running, to be delivered at the general meeting.

May Daze

The fifth month of the Gregorian calendar and the third month of Spring's rule. The name of the month is garnered from the Greek Goddess Maia Magestas - goddess of spring, the most important of the Seven Sisters (the Pleiades), and (some say) the mother of Hermes. Some form of this Goddess name is known from Ireland to India. The Romans called her Maius, Goddess of Summer. In Celtic Culture, May was called Mai or Maj, a month of sexual freedom. Green was worn during this month to honor the Earth Mother.

Beltane was originally a Celtic fire festival dedicated to the god Bel, also known as Beli, Beleneus or Balder, god of light and healing. This was a time when the circle is cast around a bonfire, wherein the ancient Celts would dance clockwise to invoke the beneficial powers of the Sun, to keep bad luck and ill health away, and to bring abundant fertility to their crops, their homes and their livestock. According to tradition, nine pieces of wood were cut by nine men from nine different trees and was used to start the fire in order to invoke the mystical powers of the number nine. Men and women would dance beneath the moon in fertility rites, as well as around the phallic symbol of the ribbon-covered Maypole, in order to remember the Green Man, Lord of the Greenwood and lover of the Goddess, who is the archetypal mother.

Correspondences

Astrological Signs: Taurus, Gemini. Nature Spirits: Faeries, elves.
Colors: Green, brown, pink. Scents: Rose, sandalwood.
Animals: Cats, lynx, leopard. Birds: Swallow, dove, swan.
Herbs: Dittany of Crete, elder, mint, rose, mugwort, thyme, yarrow.
Flowers: Lily of the valley, foxglove, rose, broom.
Stones: Emerald, malachite, amber, carnelian.
Trees: Hawthorne
Deities: Aphrodite, Artemis, Bast, Diana, Faunus, Flora, Maia, Pan, the Horned God, Venus, and all Gods & Goddesses who preside over fertility

May 1st
Witches worldwide celebrate the Sabbat of Beltane on this date. Beltane is also known as Cetsamhain (opposite Samhain), May Day, Rood Day, Roodmas (the medieval Church's name which came from Church Fathers who were hoping to shift the common people's allegiance from the Maypole, Pagan symbol of life, to the Holy Rood - the Cross - Roman instrument of death), and Walpurgisnacht. In Wales, Creiddylad was connected with this festival and often called the May Queen.
In ancient Finland, the Rowan Witch Day was celebrated annually on this date in honor of Rauni - the Goddess of Earth, Nature, Weather, and ceremonies. It was thought that Rauni manifested herself in the Rowan tree and it's berries. Reindeer were sacrificed to the Goddess on this day to bring pleasant growing weather and insure a bountiful harvest. The union of Rauni and the God Ukko created all the plants and vegetation on the earth.

May 2nd
Ysahodhara, consort of Buddha, is honored in India on this day with a sacred festival.
This day is sacred to the Goddess Elena. As Helen, she is the Goddess of the holy road, more particularly the four royal roads of Britain. In Wales, the causeways and roads called Sarn Helen are her holy, old straight tracks. She is the Elaine of Arthurian Romance.

May 4th
Sacred Thorn Tree Day and the Hawthorn Moon Month begins annually each year on this date in Ireland. Sheila Na Gig is still seen carved in the decorations of Irish churches. The Goddess is pictured as a grotesque, often cadaverous, woman squatting and holding wide her private parts. Many Irish still know her as the protector of the poor and hang old clothes on hawthorn bushes all month beginning on this day to avert poverty. It is likely that the Australian term "Sheila," used as a name for any woman, refers to this ancient deity & her carvings.
On this date, Fairy Day took place in ancient Ireland. Irish folklore says that on this day the mischievous faery folk emerge from their hiding places. To prevent children from being stolen away by the faeries and replaced with grotesque changelings, an offering of tea and bread should be left on the doorstep for the "wee folk." Wearing your coat inside out when traveling through heavily wooded areas or open fields is supposed to protect against faeries. This is said to cause such great confusion amongst them that they are unable to cause any trouble.

May 5th
On this date in some parts of China, the Feast of the Dragon is held annually on this date. As part of the celebration in ancient days, dolls were made from mugwort leaves which were considered sacred. The dolls were hung above gates and doors to repel negative influences and entities.
In various parts of Mexico and Central America, rain festivals from antediluvian times are performed each year on this date by shamanic priests and priestesses of the Old Faith. The ancient Goddesses who preside over rain and fertility are honored and invoked with prayers and offerings.

May 8th
On this day in Cornwall, England, the annual Furry Dance is performed in the streets of Helston in honor of the Horned God in the guise of Robin Hood. The festival is one of the oldest surviving Springtime ceremonies in the world, and features street dancing and a daylong procession throughout the town for good fortune.

May 9th
The annual rite of Lemuria was performed on this date to placate and remember the Lemures, the restless spirits of the dead who materialized on this day to haunt their former residences. The Lemuria was also held on the eleventh and thirteenth of May. Each family performed its own private ceremonies, which ended with taking gifts to the graves. For those who had died and had no graves, the head of the household walked barefoot through the house, casting black beans (symbolic of the Underworld) behind him and reciting a powerful prayer nine times.

May 10th
The marriage of the Goddess Meenakshi to the God Shiva is celebrated annually on this day by faithful followers in Madurai, India. Offerings of incense and white flower petals are made at all temples dedicated to Shiva while sacred hymns are sung.

May 11th
From May 11 through May 15, the Days of the Eishellige (Ice Saints) are observed in southern Germany as the time when the presence of these "Strong Lords" brings unseasonably cold and/or wet weather. These saints' names, Mamertius, Pancratius (Pancras), Bonifatius, and Cold Sophie, are Christianized versions of the Swabian presiding spirits of the days.

May 12th
In India on this day, Aranya Sashti, a God of the woodlands similar to Pan and Cernunnos, is honored with an annual festival.
The Cat Parade is celebrated in Belgium on this date in honor of felines.

May 15th
In ancient Greece, the Day of Maia was celebrated annually on this day in honor of the Full Moon Goddess for whom the festival was named. Maia was one of the Seven Sisters of Greek and Roman mythology; these sisters were later called the Pleiades. Their names are given as Alcyone, Calaeno, Electra, Maia, Merope, Asterope, and Taygete.

May 16th
On this day in India, the annual Savitu-Vrata, a highly sacred religious festival honoring the Goddess Saravasti, the "Queen of Heaven" was held each year on this date.

May 21st
In the year 1946 on this date, Gwydion Pendderwen was born in Berkeley, California. He was a Celtic bard, a cofounder of the Faery Tradition of Witchcraft, and the founder of the Neo-Pagan networking organization called Nemeton. He was killed in a tragic automobile accident in 1982.

May 22nd
The Sun enters the astrological sign of Gemini on (approximately) this date. Gemini is an air sign, ruled by the planet Mercury.

May 24th
The celebration of the Three Mothers was observed annually on or around this date each year in Celtic countries, which honored the Triple Goddess, who brought prosperity and a good harvest. The Three Mothers or Triple Goddess are known world round in many cultures, and represent the three stages of life. This triad also symbolizes the three phases of the Moon: Crescent, Full and Dark. The Goddesses are most often known by the titles of Maid, Mother and Crone.

May 30th
Lasting two days beginning on this date, the Romans held the Feast of the Queen of the Underworld, an annual celebration honoring the Underworld Goddesses such as Hecate, Cybele, and in later times Black Isis.
French heroine and military leader Joan of Arc was burned alive on this date in 1431 as punishment for coming crimes of Witchcraft, heresy, and "being given to the forbidden arts of magick and divination."

May 31st
The annual Triple Blessing of the God Buddha is observed on this day by Theravada Buddhists. To celebrate the God's birth, enlightenment, and passage into nirvana, shrines and houses are decorated with flowers and special prayer flags. Incense, flowers, and rice are offered as sacrifices. The Triple Blessing often lasts for three consecutive days.